

Transmitted Via Electronic Mail

Mr. Scott Powers
Office of Electricity
Delivery and Energy Reliability
Room 8H-033
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

November 28, 2005

Dear Mr. Powers:

I am writing to propose, on behalf of Washoe Winds, LLC (Washoe Winds) and other independent renewable energy developers, that the West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement considers three alignments that would facilitate the generation and conveyance of renewable energy throughout Northern Nevada and Northern California.

Introduction

Washoe Winds is developing 145 MW (enough power to supply 123,000 average households) of new generation from several renewable energy projects in the Granite Range area, north of Gerlach, NV. We have proposed to build 100 MW of wind, 25 MW of geothermal and 20 MW of solar power, independently or in partnership with Sierra Pacific Power Company and Nevada Energy.

Other renewable energy developers have also begun to pursue wind and geothermal developments in and adjacent to the Fly Ranch area. Presently, there is not sufficient transmission capacity in the area to deliver these abundant resources to market.

We anticipate that the energy corridors proposed herein will enable the development and transmission of an additional 450 MW of renewable power from these areas. The proposed energy corridors that can achieve this interconnection and facilitate the development of renewable power in this region are depicted in Figure 1 (attached).

Proposed Energy Corridors

The northern segment of the proposed energy corridor will go across the Granite Range from Highway 34 across to Highway 447. From there, a second portion of the alignment will then head southeast alongside the Pacific Intertie Interstate Direct Current corridor for approximately 10 miles. At that location, the alignment will split into two segments.

The southwestern portion of the alignment will parallel the Union Pacific Railway line (at the southern end of the Smoke Creek Desert) to a substation proposed Vidler Water Company at a location near Flannigan, Nevada. This portion of the alignment will tie into the State of Nevada's existing electrical grid and the Alturas transmission line, bringing new power into existing power distribution infrastructure that serves Northern Nevada and Northern California.

Washoe Winds, LLC has informally coordinated this proposed energy corridor alignment with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Tribe. Because of the need to formally coordinate this concept with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Figure 1 identifies an alternative corridor alignment that avoids Reservation lands, should the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe elect to decline the option to develop a power corridor ways to across their reservation.

The proposed southeastern alignment heads south from Highway 447 to the west of Empire and south again to the east of the Nightingale Mountains, then southeast across the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, to the south of the lake, towards the Southern Pacific Railroad line past Fernley to the existing Tracy substation that serves Reno and Northern Nevada. Again, formal coordination with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe will be required to assess the viability of this proposed alignment.

Conclusion

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 requires the BLM and other agencies to designate new right-of-way corridors on Federal lands for electricity transmission and distribution facilities and oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines. The Act also states that a coordinated system of energy corridors across the West is comparable in scope and importance to the Interstate Highway system. The Act mentions “increasing utilization of existing energy corridors by applying new technologies and operational techniques ...Identifying and designating new corridors, and “Continue(d) cooperation and collaboration among the BLM and an array of state, Tribal and local governmental agencies as well as other groups.”

Accordingly, Washoe Winds requests these 3 rights of way be included into the process of energy corridor environmental review and inclusion in the interagency Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement covering the eleven Western States.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate contact me at (775) 329-4607.

Sincerely,

Chris F. Collins
Managing Partner
Washoe Winds, LLC

cc: Sen. Harry Reid
Chairman Norman O. Harry, Pyramid Lake Paiutes
Sierra Pacific Power Company

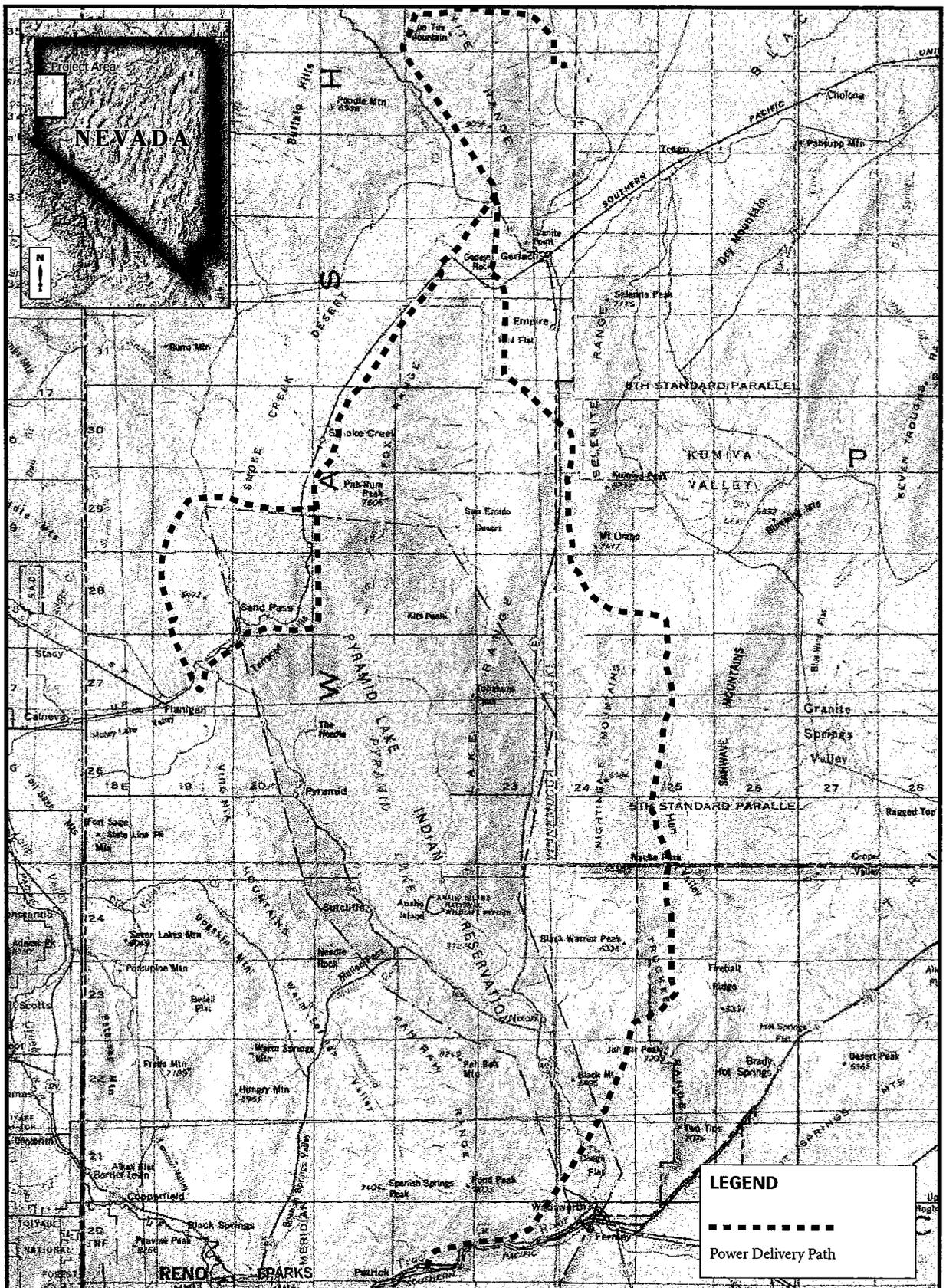


FIGURE 1
 Proposed Nevada Renewable Energy Corridors
 West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS

WASHOE WINDS, LLC